

AWASTER

Adopting WASTE as Resource

High level event: “AWASTER for a circular future: Youth empowerment and business innovation”

This conference, organized within the framework of the AWASTER project, brings together stakeholders from the public, private, and educational sectors to discuss strategies for advancing the circular economy in the Italy-Croatia programme area.

The program includes two panel discussions—focusing respectively on circular business practices and youth engagement, a session highlighting best practices from the project and other EU initiatives and first overview of the AWASTER Strategy and Action Plan. The event aims to foster cross-sector collaboration and promote sustainable solutions for reducing waste and building a circular future.

24th June 2025

Town hall - Piazza della Repubblica, 1
30026 Portogruaro VE, Italy

AGENDA

9:30-9:45	Registration of participants
9:45-10:00	Welcome speeches <i>Representatives of the Regional/Local authorities, VeGAL, IRENA</i>
10:00-10:20	AWASTER – Adopting WASTE as Resource: Introduction to the project and Presentation of the AWASTER Strategy and Action Plan – building pathway for a waste-free environment in the Italy-Croatia cross-border area <i>IRENA, SINLOC</i>
10:20-11:30	Round table 1 – Circular shift: Rethinking business practices for a sustainable tomorrow <i>This round table brings together representatives from the business sector and local/regional authorities to explore how circular economy principles can be integrated into business models and public policy. The discussion will focus on practical approaches to reducing waste, enhancing resource efficiency, and fostering innovation through cross-sector collaboration. Panelists will share experiences, challenges, and opportunities in driving the transition toward more sustainable and circular economic practices.</i> <i>Panelists:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Andrea Galeota, Padova Chamber of Commerce - Venicepromex - Vjeran Filippi, GEM-Mediteran Adriatica d.o.o. - Marco Galanti, T2i - Mirela Faraguna, Local action group "Eastern Istria" - Simone Zecca, Studio Sigma <i>Moderator: Antonio Garofano, Officine Sostenibili società benefit srl</i>
11:30-12:00	Coffee break
12:00-12:20	Circular economy good practices – learning from the best - implementing them to become better <i>Presentation of AWASTER Best practice catalogue</i> <i>Videos from best cases (foe. Interreg IT-HR MARLESS)</i> <i>Possible presentation of other Interreg IT-HR projects/cases</i>
12:20-13:30	Round table 2 – Bridging generations, building a sustainable future: Empowering youth to lead the circular economy <i>The round table focuses on the critical role of education, youth engagement, and community initiatives in advancing the circular economy. Featuring representatives from schools, NGOs, and awareness-raising programs, the discussion will highlight effective strategies for fostering environmental responsibility among young people. Panelists will share insights into how intergenerational collaboration and early education can inspire long-term behavioral change and active participation in building a more sustainable future.</i>



Italy – Croatia



	<p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Samuele Colombo, Veritas spa</i> - <i>Olivera Tadić, High School Mate Blažine Labin</i> - <i>Davide Pesavento, Marevivo Veneto</i> - <i>Mario Salomone, WEECs International Organising Committee</i> - <i>Tea Kuzmičić Rosandić, SUNCE</i> <p><i>Moderator: Antonio Garofano, Officine Sostenibili società benefit srl</i></p>
	Closing remarks
13:30	End of the conference
13:30-14:30	Lunch

***The event will be held in Italian and Croatian, and interpretation will be provided.**

